



AFTER GERMANY, *What?*

Whenever the German war is ended, and the rejoicing is over, we shall have to face these facts:

First, because we must keep large forces in Europe for a longer time than any American will wish to contemplate, and because the repatriation of war prisoners is a long and complicated task, the end of fighting must inevitably create problems of morale which will tax to the limit the energies and resources of the three major agencies serving our own forces—the USO, United Seamen's Service and War Prisoners Aid.

Second, the liberation of occupied lands will present, in most cases for the first time, challenging opportunities for private aid and services, to supplement the relief programs of UNRRA and other

government agencies. Whatever we can do, we shall all want to do quickly and generously, for the people of these countries are those who have suffered most.

Third, we shall still be fighting a great war—our war with Japan. For this the USO, United Seamen's Service and War Prisoners Aid must be ready for bigger tasks. We must remember too that the day is drawing near when the liberation of the Philippines, and an open door to China, will bring us face to face with traditional responsibilities which all Americans will gladly welcome.

Victory over Germany, therefore, whenever it comes, will undoubtedly create shifts in certain agency programs, but may very well increase, rather than diminish, the need for our help.

Fortunately, our budget processes—swift, elastic and impartial—assure fair handling of this critical and difficult situation.

But a generous America, through state and local war funds, must assure the National War Fund that the work of its member agencies will go forward until the day when our men and women in the armed forces are back in their homes.

Meanwhile, let us dedicate our efforts to them, and let us strive greatly to match their victories with ours.

Arthur H. Aldrich
President, NATIONAL WAR FUND



Let's Finish the Job!

READ THESE

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YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS • THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICE • THE NATIONAL JEWISH WELFARE BOARD
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United Service Organizations, inc.

350 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 1, N. Y. • PHONE: PENNSYLVANIA 6-5400

August 19, 1944

Dear Mr. Aldrich:

In response to your inquiry relative to the financial needs of USO in the coming months - particularly in the event of an early termination of the European war, - I see no likely possibility of reducing our budget for 1945.

While operations overseas are, of course, drawing the bulk of our total military personnel abroad, it is still a fact that the Army so far has reduced complements rather than closed out military establishments. According to recent advice, there will be about as many soldiers in this Country at the end of 1944 as there were at the beginning of 1943, although their distribution will be different; fewer men in training and more men in hospitals and in reconditioning centers. In 1943, the volume of USO services was inadequate because of war-time conditions, delays in the construction of Government buildings, priorities, scarcity of labor and materials. At the close of the first quarter of 1944, most of this lag had been overcome, although not everywhere. The closing of some clubs has been offset by the opening of others and by necessary expansions elsewhere. As a result, the volume of USO services actually is larger today than ever before.

Despite all this, substantially less expenditure will be made within continental United States in 1945 than in 1944.

However, it is expected that USO must spend more money in 1945 in the Western Hemisphere outside the United States. In some cases, garrisons have been reduced with consequent reduction in staff on our part. Such reductions have, however, been more than offset by necessary expansions elsewhere. Notably, increasing military operations in the Pacific make it imperative to expand services in Hawaii as rapidly as possible.

Camp Shows will require a larger budget in 1945. As fronts have been opened all over the world, demand for USO Camp Shows has grown accordingly. Already we have a surprising number of units in Normandy and Brittany. In fact to get entertainment to the fighting fronts, Camp Shows' schedules in this Country have had to be cut in half. An end to the war will bring an immediate increased demand and need for the entertainment of our armed forces overseas. Meanwhile, at the request of the authorities, USO Camp Shows has recruited eighty new units to provide entertainment in war hospitals.

It seems evident there can be no abrupt curtailment of USO activities without detriment to the service we have undertaken to render.

Yours truly,

Arthur J. Barnard

President

MR. WINTHROP W. ALDRICH
President, National War Fund, Inc.
18 Pine Street
New York 15, New York

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WAR PRISONERS AID

OF THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS
347 MADISON AVENUE • NEW YORK 17, N. Y. • MU 6-1200

August 16, 1944

Dear Mr. Aldrich:

The effect of a possible early ending of the war in Europe must be judged on the basis of the known factors in the present war, and the analagous factors in the situation at the close of the first World War.

Frequent consultations by Dr. Tracy Strong, who is now in Sweden, with leaders in Europe on both sides of the conflict, give adequate ground for the statement that the full exchange of prisoners will not have been completed under a full year. It is our conviction that the services of War Prisoners Aid will have to be carried on at the present scale for twelve months, and that a diminishing but increasingly important service will be required throughout the better part of the second year.

It is important to remember that the exchange of prisoners is to a certain extent reciprocal. The speed of the exchange will depend upon diplomatic negotiations, upon physical conditions of transportation, upon the social and economic conditions within the countries to which the prisoners return, and upon the health of the prisoners.

It should be emphasized that the morale problem of the prisoner increases after the fighting stops. The prisoners cannot see why they cannot be immediately returned to their home countries. Organized educational, recreational, and religious activities will, therefore, be even more important than at present.

Sincerely yours,

John R. Mott

John R. Mott, Chairman
War Prisoners Aid Committee

Mr. Winthrop W. Aldrich, President
The National War Fund, Incorporated
46 Cedar Street
New York, New York

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UNITED SEAMEN'S SERVICE, INC.

39 BROADWAY, NEW YORK 6, N. Y.
WHITEHALL 3-2500

August 17, 1944

Mr. Winthrop W. Aldrich, President
National War Fund, Inc.
46 Cedar Street
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Aldrich:

In response to your inquiry as to the plans of the USS when hostilities cease in Europe, I am glad to outline our position.

Merchant seamen were actively engaged in the war long before this country was officially at war. They will continue to be so engaged long after hostilities cease. There will be a considerable Army of Occupation in Europe for some time, and supplies for the Army, our Allies, and the civilian population will be shipped. The USS will continue its service to seamen during this period. When particular units are not needed, they are closed. We have already closed several. But new demands are constantly thrust upon us by the military authorities. We are now in Cherbourg and will have to operate in others ports in France, Italy, the Balkans, and other places. Whenever possible, we transfer men and supplies from units no longer active to the new ones.

It is also apparent that when military pressure can be relaxed in Europe, military efforts will increase in the Pacific, and this will call for the transportation of troops, war materials and supplies. Our shipbuilding program is being kept up at full speed, and the recruiting of additional seamen is being pressed. It is, therefore, the opinion of the military authorities that demands for shipping have not reached their maximum and we anticipate a steady pressure on us for service to seamen.

Whatever economies can be developed in the European theatre will be effected, and this will enable us to increase our efforts in the Pacific. From information now available, we do not anticipate any increase in the budget will be necessary. We do expect that our maximum efforts will be required for some time after the cessation of European hostilities.

Faithfully yours,

Douglas P. Falconer
Douglas P. Falconer
Executive Director

DPF.P

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